

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of February 7, 2011.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In response, the cited language has been removed.

The Office Action rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Barradas reference (U.S. Patent No. 2,715,087). Similarly, the Office Action rejected Claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Inagaki reference (JP 55045379) in view of the Barradas reference and rejected Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Barradas alone or Inagaki and Barradas, and further in view of the Johnson reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,388,021).

The Barradas reference discloses the insertion of a heated probe into a tube to heat the tube (see first full paragraph, column 2). In particular, the heated probe “is inserted within the tube to heat the interior surfaces thereof. This heater fits the tube snugly and softens the surface that it contacts” (col. 2, line 9-11). This is quite different in many respects from the claimed “introducing a heated probe into the engaged end portions of the zipper profiles in order *to form a recess* in the zipper profile material” [italics added]. In other words merely heating the walls of a workpiece is fundamentally different from forming a recess in the workpiece. In the Barradas reference, no recess is formed and the end of the tube is sealed together

whereas the presently pending claims recite "applying external pressure to the end portion of the zipper" after formation of the recess.

Moreover, the apparatus of the Barradas reference could not work on a zipper, even somehow assuming that a recess were created, the disclosed sealing bars of the Barradas reference would merely seal the ends of the zipper together, leaving the formed recess in place.

It is respectfully submitted that this is not resolved by any of the secondary references.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of these rejections are overcome.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald E. Brown", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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